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Dated: January 13, 2006

Signature:

(David T. Yang)

2161  
IPW  
Patent

Docket No. 393032024300

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Shinichi ITO et al.

Serial No.: 09/823,704

Filing Date: March 30, 2001

For: INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM  
AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL  
METHOD USING NETWORK

Examiner: E. P. Leroux

Group Art Unit: 2161

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b. Copies of foreign documents and non-patent literature are submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

The documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b were cited in a European Search Report mailed on November 25, 2005, directed to a counterpart foreign application and have not been previously cited. A certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) follows:

I hereby certify that each item of information was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☒ After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
- ☒ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above; accordingly, no fee is believed to be due.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO/SB/08a/b, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petition and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **(393032024300)**.

Dated: January 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

David T. Yang

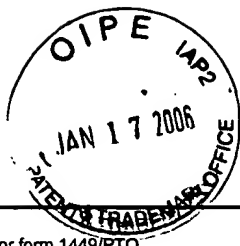
Registration No.: 44,415

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ALTERNATIVE TO PTO/SB/08 a/b (07-05)

<b>Substitute for form 1449/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/823,704
				Filing Date	March 30, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Shinichi ITO
				Art Unit	2161
				Examiner Name	E. P. Leroux
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	393032024300

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA*	US-5,604,322	02-18-1997	Kikuchi	
	AB*	US-5,963,957	10-05-1999	Hoffberg	
	AC*	US-5,969,283	10-19-1999	Looney	
	AD*	US-5,900,608	05-04-1999	Iida	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
	BA	WO-00/42555	07-20-2000	The Harry Fox Agency, Inc.		X
	BB	WO-00/54187	09-14-2000	Rock.com, Inc.		√

\*EXAMINER: Initial if information considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	CA	Musicnotes.com web site revolutionized distribution and deliver of sheet music, July 13, 1999, XP002969665	
	CB	Redeout, E. Sibilius 1.0 Keyboard, Music Player Network, San Francisco, CA, US, Vol. 25, no. 4, April 1999, XP000823548, ISSN 0730-0158	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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